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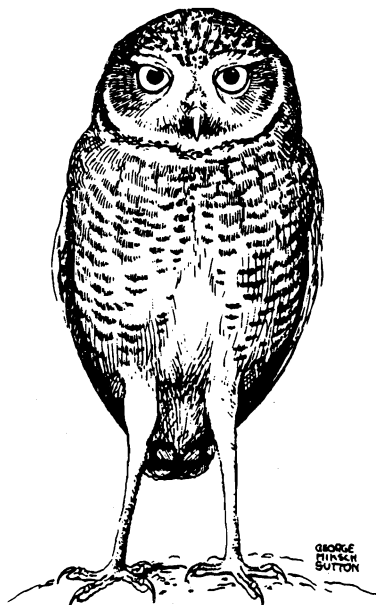
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The Nebraska Bird Review

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SPRING FIELD REPORT, March-May 2002
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INTRODUCTION

A significant feature of this report is the fact that 94 observers provided data! E-mail has certainly provided a simple way to report sightings with ease, obviating for many the tedium of compiling a magnum opus four times a year (although the ultra-dedicated Harding and Randolph still filed their standard 40-pager!).

Interesting banding information was provided for Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, and Pine Siskin by Ruth Green. The characteristics of the subspecies of Pine Siskin are not well known anywhere, let alone in Nebraska.

Waterfowl and raptors had few significant sightings, although harriers were noted nesting at a couple of locations south of the Platte River.

Shorebirds were interesting; Nebraska's 6th Ruff was the only real rarity, but usually uncommon species in high numbers included Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Dunlin. Very early were Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Wilson's Phalarope, the latter by 5 days!

Doves continue to provide excitement in Kearney, where a belated report of 3 juvenile White-winged Doves in 2001 came to light, and at least 65 Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported statewide.

Probably fledged nearby was a juvenile Northern Saw-Whet Owl found as a roadkill in Antelope Co; some of our most interesting records are made this way.

Western Wood-Pewees may reach their eastern limit at Valentine; further study of the pewees at the Valentine Fish Hatchery could yield interesting results. A well-described Dusky Flycatcher marked the 2nd for spring, although it seems that the species is a regular fall migrant in the west.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to proliferate; this time in the east, and Tree Swallows are making good use of nest-boxes, fledging in excellent numbers wherever boxes are provided.

Amazing numbers of *Catharus* thrushes were found in the west, even including a few Veeries and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. For good measure in the thrush group, two Varied Thrushes made brief appearances in the east.

Probably the most exciting group this spring was the wood warblers. No fewer than 36 species were reported, including state-first Hermit Warbler, Worm-eating Warblers (yes, plural) in the Panhandle, as well as Blue-winged, Black-throated Blue, Pine, and Hooded Warblers (the latter also seen in the Panhandle). Excellent numbers of usually scarce species like Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green were reported, to say nothing of a major influx of Cape Mays.

Summer Tanagers continued in good numbers. Two Painted Buntings were reported from feeders in the east, and Cassin's Finches from near Chadron. The amazing winter influx of White-winged Crossbills also continued, with several birds remaining throughout the period.

ABBREVIATIONS:

ADE: Arbor Day Farm, Otoe Co;

BOL: Branched Oak L, Lancaster Co;

CLNWR: Crescent L NWR, Garden Co;

eRWB: Rainwater Basin, mostly Fillmore, Clay and surrounding counties;

FF: Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co;

FL: Funk Lagoon, Phelps Co;

HCR: Harlan Co Res, Harlan Co;

ICSP: Indian Cave SP: Nemaha/Richardson Cos;

L: Lake;

LM: L McConaughy, Keith Co;

LO: L Ogallala (+L Keystone), Keith Co;

NNE: Nebraska National Forest;

NOU: Nebraska Ornithologists' Union;

NOURC: NOU Records Committee;

NWR: National Wildlife Refuge;

PL: Pawnee L, Lancaster Co;

SCP: Spring Creek Prairie, Lancaster Co;

SHP: State Historical Park;

SL: Sewage Lagoon(s);

SP: State Park;

WP: Wilderness Park, Lincoln.

GAZETTEER:

Ash Hollow: SHP, Garden Co;

Calamus Res: Loup/Garfield Cos;

L Minatare: Scotts Bluff Co;

Niobrara Marsh: Knox Co;

Oliver Res: Kimball Co;

Platte River SP: Cass Co;

Ponca SP: Dixon Co;

Schramm Park: Sarpy Co;

Scotts Bluff NM: Scotts Bluff Co;

Summit L: Burt Co;

Wehrspann L: Chalco Hills, Sarpy Co;

Wildcat Hills NC: Scotts Bluff Co.

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ARu: Alice Rumery, Kearney;

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DSh: Don Shown, Lincoln;

DSt: Dave Stage, Lincoln;
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GW: Gertrude Wood, York;
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JC: Jay Carlisle, SD;
JF: Joe Fontaine, Fort Collins, CO;
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JGJ: Joel J. Jorgensen, Blair;
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JSt: Jon Strong, Omaha;
JT: Jerry Toll, Omaha;
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KE: Kim Eckert, Duluth, MN;
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KN: Kent Nickell, Waterloo, IA;
KP: Kevin Poague, Lincoln;
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LE: Larry Einemann, Lincoln;
LF: Laurence Falk, Nebraska City;
LM: Lynne Magee, Fort Calhoun;
LP: Loren Padelford, Bellevue;
LR: Lanny Randolph, Gibbon;
LRB: Linda R. Brown, Lincoln;
LW: Leona Weed, Alliance;
MA: Mark Armstrong, Bellevue;
MB: Mark Brogie, Creighton;
MJI: Marshall J. Iliff, Annapolis, MD;
MM: Marty Mathieson, Shelton;
m.ob.: many observers;
MU: Mark Urwiller, Kearney;
MUs: Moni Usasz, Lincoln;
NGP: Nebraska Game and Parks;
NP: Neva Pruess, Lincoln;

NR: Neal Ratzlaff, Omaha;
PD: Phyllis Drawbaugh, Scottsbluff;
PL: Paul Lehman, Cape May, NJ;
PM: Pete Moroz, Lee's Summit, MO;
PS: Phil Swanson, Papillion;
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PW: Pat Williams, Fort Calhoun;
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RD: Rosemary Draeger, Sioux Falls, SD;
RG: Ruth Green, Bellevue;
RH: Robin Harding, Gibbon;
RHS: Richard H. Schmid, Bellevue;
SA: Sue Amiotte, Chadron;
SH: Sue Helzer, Lincoln;
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SM: Steve McIlree, Omaha;
SW: Sarah Winfrey, Gering;
TEL: Thomas E. Labedz, Lincoln;
TH: Tom Hoffman, Omaha;
TP: Theresa Pester, Lincoln;
WH: Wanda Hoge, Alma;
WM: Wayne Mollhoff, Ashland;
WRS: W. Ross Silcock, Tabor, IA.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon: The limits of normal migration timing were defined by one bird spotted at Twin Lakes, Seward Co, on 31 March (B) and 2 basic-plumaged birds found at PL on 29 May (JG). About 15 were reported.

Pied-billed Grebe: Routine reports.

Horned Grebe: Rather early was the one seen at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 16 March (LE). Apart from one identified at De Soto NWR, Washington Co, on 11 April (JGJ) and one discovered in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM), other reports included 1 to 8 birds seen at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, between 6 April and 16 May (m.ob.).

Eared Grebe: the best count reached a moderate 30+ at Gering SL on 11 May (KL).

Western Grebe: The one seen on fast-moving Missouri River water near Niobrara on 12 April was unusual (MB) and a bit early for the east. Another was spotted at Niobrara Marsh on 19 May (BP, LP). The species is uncommon in the east; others reported included one spotted in Colfax Co on 26 April (DP, JP); 9 spotted at L North/L Babcock, Platte Co, on 2

May (DP, JP); and another identified there on 19 May (JGJ, DM, DH). The best count totaled a moderate 800 on 14 May at LM (SJD).

Clark's Grebe: The only reports were of single birds noted at Oliver Res on 13 May (PS) and on 17 May (JF, SJD), and of 1 to 2 found in the LM area between 14 and 15 May (SJD, JF).

American White Pelican: The 31 found at HCR on 13 March (GH, WH) were rather early; the peak there totaled 700 on 30 March (GH, WH). The best count was 711 at LM registered on 15 May (SJD, JF).

Double-crested Cormorant: The first to arrive at HCR was rather early, on 13 March (GH, WH). Adults move through rapidly, but immatures linger; 600, mostly immatures, were estimated at BOL on 11 May (WRS). The colony at Sutherland Res, Lincoln Co, had 19 nests on 14 May (SJD).

American Bittern: About 13 were reported statewide from 10 April on, as expected. Not often seen is the courtship display, a bird spotted in Cherry Co on 30 May had its white-based hind-neck feathers raised "like a feather boa" (LB).

Least Bittern: None was reported; this species has been a regular spring migrant in the east.

Great Blue Heron: A new rookery along Salt Creek south of Roca, Lancaster Co, had 15 nests in 3 cottonwood trees on 20 April and 27 whole and partial nests on 5 May (LE); and another rookery in southeastern Otoe Co had 12 birds in attendance on 29 April (CF, LF). A heronry at Medicine Creek Res, Frontier Co, had 9 incubating birds on 21 April (LR, RH). There are between 20 and 30 active colonies in the state (fide NGP).

Great Egret: About 55 were reported; the first was a single seen in Lancaster Co on 6 April (MUs). And the best count reached 13 at Cunningham L, Omaha, on 10 April (AR).

Snowy Egret: Only 6 were reported, with 3 spotted at Mud Springs, Morrill Co, on 11 May (KL). The others were seen at North Platte SL on 22 May (JG); in Hall Co, on 11 May (fide CM); and at PL on 27 May (LE).

Little Blue Heron: Four were reported, about normal: a "calico" morph bird was identified near Cedar Bluffs on 28 April (DP, JP), and other singles were found in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM), at SCP on 14 May (KP), and at Burchard L, Pawnee Co, on 18 May (DSt).

Cattle Egret: An average 43 were reported; the first were 4 seen in Dixon Co on 17 April (JJ). The best counts were 14 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and 14 in the eastern RWB on 27 May (JGJ). Rare in the west, one was spotted at CLNWR on 7 May (HW, SW).

Green Heron: Farthest west were singles found at HCR on 15 May (GH, WH) and at FL on 18 May (KN). An excellent count was 11, registered in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: The best counts included the 21+ totaled at Walnut Creek L, Sarpy Co, on 29 April (KCR, EA) and the 21 registered in the eastern RWB on 18 May (JGJ).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: None was reported; this species has been a rare but regular migrant in the southeast.

White-faced Ibis: As in recent years, good numbers were reported, totalling at least 85 birds. The ten birds discovered at HCR on 10 April (GH, WH) were rather early. The best counts occurred at FL, starting with 5 on 18 April (Aru), peaking at 22 on 4 May (LR, RH).

Turkey Vulture: The first was one spotted in Washington Co on 14 March (CHy), and the best count reached 34 at a regular Gering roost on 8 April (AK).

Greater White-fronted Goose: The best count was the 1,500 tallied at FL on 16 March (LR, RH). None was reported west of FL; the species is rare in the west.

Snow Goose: The best count from the eastern RWB was the 470,000 tallied in Dawson, Gosper, Phelps, and Buffalo Cos on 10 March (LR, RH); they must have moved north soon after, as "perhaps a million" were discovered on the ice above Gavin's Point Dam in Knox Co on 23 March (BD, RD). An excellent count for the east was the 25,000 tallied at BOL on 17 March (LE).

Ross's Goose: Six birds flying over FF on 17 February (BP, LP) were rather early; and the 5 spotted at LO on 15 May were a bit tardy (SJD, JF), as were 2 identified near Fremont which stayed throughout the period (DP, JP). The best count was 21 totaled in the eastern RWB on 14 March (JGJ).

Canada Goose: A nest with 4 eggs was found at Kiowa Springs, Scotts Bluff Co, on 21 April (HW, SW). Unusual was a bird suspected of being a hybrid between Canada Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose seen at Eppley Airfield, Omaha, on 29 April (JT). The best count reached 29,135 in the Buffalo Co area on 10 March (LR,RH).

Brant: No details were provided for a report of one spotted at Grandpa's Steakhouse Pond, Kearney, on 2 March (B).

Trumpeter Swan: Swans seen in March should be carefully identified, as either Tundra or Trumpeter Swans are possible; several Tundras were reported in March (see next species). No details were provided for the 3 reported as Trumpeters at Cunningham L, Omaha, on 16 March (B), but the 2 spotted at L North/L Babcock, Platte Co, on 30 March were conservatively reported as "probable Trumpeters" (JWH). Trumpeters in known breeding locations were found near Hyannis, Grant Co, on 5 April (WM) and on 2 May (HW, SW); and at Doc L near Whitman on 5 April (WM).

Tundra Swan: A record count for Nebraska was the 17 tallied at Lonergan L, Douglas Co, on 17 March (JGJ). Elsewhere, 3 adults were seen at Niobrara Marsh between 3 and 16 March (MB); and an adult was

identified at Crystal Lake, Dakota Co, on 22 March (BFH). This species is a rare but regular spring migrant.

Wood Duck: A hen with 7 young was found at Towle Park, Omaha, on 24 May (CHy), and a hen and brood were spotted at Theesen Lagoon, Adams Co, on 27 May (JGJ).

Gadwall: A good count was the 1,350 tallied at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, on 17 April (WRS), part of a large aggregation of puddle ducks there.

Eurasian Wigeon: None was reported; in recent years this species has been a regular but rare migrant.

American Wigeon: Good counts included the 1,350 estimated at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, on 17 April (WRS) and the 1,000 totaled at Gleason Basin, Kearney Co, on 6 April (LR, RH).

American Black Duck: None was reported; once a rare but regular migrant, this species has been rarely reported in recent years.

Mallard: The best count reached 2,000 at Gleason Basin, Kearney Co, on 6 April (LR, RH). A hen and 7 ducklings were located south of Morrill, Scotts Bluff Co, on 26 May (KL).

Blue-winged Teal: First reported were the 7 spotted in Lancaster Co on 17 March (LE) and a male seen at Crystal L, Dakota Co, on 20 March (BFH), about on schedule.

Cinnamon Teal: This species was widely reported, but no farther east than Gleason Basin, Kearney Co, where one was first to arrive for the state on 6 April (LR, RH). About 18 were reported, with the best count reaching 6 south of Morrill on 26 May (KL).

Northern Shoveler: An excellent count--the 2nd highest ever for spring--was the 2,000 tallied at HCR on 19 April (GH, WH).

Northern Pintail: The best count was the 4,000 tallied at Gleason Basin, Kearney Co, on 6 April (LR, RH).

Green-winged Teal: The best count reached a moderate 800 at Swanson Res, Hitchcock Co, on 17 April (WRS).

Canvasback: A good count was the 282 totaled at Niobrara Marsh on 17 March (MB).

Redhead: Breeding may occur in the eastern RWB, but a surprising count so late in a dry year was the 52 tallied there, with 31 counted at Harvard Marsh, Clay Co, on 27 May (JGJ). Another surprising count for the rather late date was the 42 located at Alma South SL on 28 May (GH, WH).

Ring-necked Duck: The one spotted south of Morrill on 27 May (KL) was tardy.

Greater Scaup: The usual few were reported, about 15 birds, all in March, except for an apparently injured male seen at BOL from 11 to 12 May (BP, LP). There are only about 10 records for May.

Lesser Scaup: The latest were the one discovered at BOL on 27 May (JGJ; details) and the 2 seen at HCR on 28 May (GH, WH). No concentrations were reported.

Long Tailed Duck: None was reported; the latest dates occur in mid-April.

Bufflehead: The six found at Johnson L, Gosper Co, on 10 March (LR, RH) and the one seen at Carter L, Omaha, on 15 March (JGJ) were rather early.

Common Goldeneye: A first spring male spotted at LO on 14 May (SJD) was rather late.

Hooded Merganser: This species was widely reported, but none was spotted west of FL and HCR. At HCR 12 to 13 migrants were counted from 23 to 26 March (GH, WH, LR, RH), a good total. More significantly, a pair was seen at FL on 30 March (PM, JM), and a male and 2 females were identified there on 6 April (LR, RH). No males were noted after these dates, with later sightings, as usual, of immature/female-plumaged birds.

Common Merganser: A record spring count by far was the 13,400 tallied at HCR on 23 March (LR, RH). Numbers in fall are much larger even than this count, though. Rather late were an adult male seen at BOL on 11 May (JS) and a single noted at PL on 12 May (LE).

Red-breasted Merganser: About 43 were reported, all in the east, in the period from 23 March to 21 April (m.ob.)

Ruddy Duck: The second best spring count ever was the 351 tallied at Niobrara Marsh on 6 April (MB).

Osprey: A good count was the 9 in Hall Co on 11 May 2002 (fide CM).

Mississippi Kite: The only report was of 3 seen at Ogallala, a regular site, on 15 May (SJD, JF).

Bald Eagle: The best counts included 76 seen in Gosper and Phelps Cos on 15 March (LR, RH) and 37, including 36 adults, located on the North Loup River near Highway 11 on 17 March (MM). Several nests were noted, as this species continues its dramatic increase in nesting numbers in the state. A nest in Keya Paha Co had a single adult nearby on 7 April (DSt). A first nest for De Soto NWR, Washington Co, was active since 14 February (SM, JGJ), had its first egg hatch on 14 April, and had 2 young, which had reached 2/3 adult size by 24 May (SM). At Ponca SP a new nest was built near the previous nest by 30 March; an adult and a juvenile were spotted there on 4 May (BFH). An adult was found on a nest west of Kearney on 28 April (ARu). An adult and a chick were noted at a nest just southeast of the Louisville Platte River bridge on 28 April (TEL). The long-established nest at Calamus Res contained at least one juvenile on 22 May (NGP fide CH).

Northern Harrier: Two probable nest sites were observed. A male and a female were present at Clark Area, southwest Kearney Co, on 6 April; the female was seen carrying food into an area of heavy grass (LR, RH). At Medicine Creek Res, Red Willow Co, on 21 April, a male and a female were observed flying together over a food plot adjacent to the lake; the female delivered several items of nest material to a weedy patch in the

food plot (LR, RH). A male identified in Dixon Co as late as 27 May (JJ) may have been nesting in the area.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: the last reported was spotted in the Sacramento-Wilcox Area, Phelps Co, on 5 May (LR, RH).

Cooper's Hawk: This species is a secretive, but probably fairly widespread and common breeder in Nebraska. Several sightings involved probable breeding birds: pairs acting territorially were seen at Oliver Res on 20 April (WRS); at ICSP on 28 April (WRS); and at Dodge Park, Omaha, on 30 April and on 5 May (JGJ). A nest, possibly with a chick, was noted at Summit L on 8 May (JGJ), and a nest with 2 adults was seen at WP on 12 May (MUs).

Red-shouldered Hawk: As usual, the only reports came from FF between 17 March and 13 May (BP, LP, NR), although no observer noted 2 birds at any one time. A single bird was spotted performing flight displays on 17 Mar (BP, LP).

Broad-winged Hawk: The usual few spring migrants were reported: a meager total of 11 birds. Rare as a species in the Panhandle, a juvenile was identified at L Minatare on 16 May (SJD, JF); this plumage is retained for "almost a year" (Palmer, Handbook of N. Am. Birds). The others were observed in the east between 25 April and 25 May (m.ob.).

Swainson's Hawk: the first reported were singles spotted near Tekamah, Burt Co, (JGJ) and in Bellevue (BP, LP) on 11 April. The best counts included 13 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and 8+ in a recent burn area at SCP on 3 May (KP).

Red-tailed Hawk: Rather late for a "Krider's" form was a juvenile located at Wehrspann L on 17 April (JWH). The last dark bird reported was found in central Nebraska on 30 March (LR, RH). A good count was the 44 seen along I-80 between Omaha and Grand Island on 23 March (DM).

Ferruginous Hawk: Only 4 were reported, all in the Panhandle (m.ob.)

Rough-legged Hawk: The last were singles found in Kimball Co, a light adult female seen on 20 April (WRS) and a single spotted at Kiowa Springs, Scotts Bluff Co, on 21 April (HW, SW).

Golden Eagle: One was found incubating at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, by 30 March (HKH). Rather far east were an adult observed feeding on a waterfowl carcass at BOL on 3 March (LE; details) and a single identified in Keya Paha Co on 7 April (DSt). Only 5 were reported.

American Kestrel: Routine reports.

Merlin: Of 4 birds identified to subspecies, all in northeastern Nebraska, one was *richardsoni*, spotted on 30 March, and the others were *columbarius*, observed between 1 and 19 May (MB). Most wintering Merlins in Nebraska appear to be *richardsoni*, a short-distance migrant that breeds on northern prairies. *Columbarius* is a long-distance migrant that appears mostly during migration in Nebraska. Rather late were a *columbarius* found in Pierce Co on 19 May (MB) and a single Merlin spotted in Antelope Co on 25 May (MB, DH). Only 10 were reported.

Prairie Falcon: Rather far south and east was one seen attacking Snow Geese at PL on 3 March (LE).

Peregrine Falcon: Becoming widely reported during migration in recent years, 18 were reported statewide in the period from 9 April (B) to 26 May (LR, RH). The only bird identified to subspecies was an *anatum* found in Chase Co on 20 May (FMR). *Anatum* is the expected subspecies in Nebraska, although *tundrius* certainly occurs.

Gray Partridge: News that "they still exist!" was received from Holt and Boyd Cos, where a pair was seen in each county on 29 May (MB). These birds are probably outliers of the South Dakota population; this area is the first occupied by the species in Nebraska. Northeast Nebraska sightings are rare nowadays.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Excellent counts were the 60+ totaled on the west side of Kiowa Springs, Scotts Bluff Co, on 15 April (KL) and the 53 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Sharp-tailed Grouse: The best count reached 15 at the new South Pine Area, Brown Co, on 5 March (NP). A male was observed displaying on 19 March at Taylor Ranch, Hall Co, with about 15 prairie-chickens (KE, MJ). The one spotted 60 feet up in a cottonwood proved a strange sight at Niobrara Marsh on 1 April (MB).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Numbers are good in the northeastern part of the Nebraska range: 5 new leks were found between Verdigre and Bloomfield (MB) and "lots" were found in Keya Paha Co on 7 April (DSt). The best count was the 35 totaled at a lek near Cairo in Hall Co on 17 March (LR, RH); at Taylor Ranch, Hall Co, 22 were counted on 22 March (LR, RH). Several were also reported in Johnson and Gage Cos, with 6 seen there on 4 May (MB), and 5 found at Burchard L, Pawnee Co, on 18 May (DSt).

Wild Turkey: Excellent counts included the 76 observed near Crane Meadows NC, Hall Co, on 23 Mar (fide DM) and the 60 tallied along the North Platte River near Mitchell on 15 April (KL). Scary must have been the flock of 20 that flew past the observer at FF on 4 April (NR).

Northern Bobwhite: Some distance from the North Platte River, a few persist around WLC; singles were spotted there from 16 to 17 May (SJD, JF) and again on 25 May (fide AK). Bobwhites usually stay fairly close to the river itself.

King Rail: None was reported; this species was regular until the last few years.

Virginia Rail: The one seen at Summit L on 31 May was rather late if not a breeder (MB).

Sora: Another strange sight was one discovered 20 feet up in an Ironwood Tree at FF on 14 May (LP). Not sure if the Sora or the observer was higher! Another spotted along Stream Trail in FF on 4 May (TP) was also in a somewhat unusual location. Arrival was on time at the end of April.

American Coot: Routine reports.

Sandhill Crane: Arrival was somewhat later than in recent years, with the first birds being some small groups and flocks noted in the Wood River and Alda area on 5 March (NP). The best count was an obviously carefully-made although mildly-disputed 278,472 tallied in central Nebraska on 23 March (fide DM). The 250,000+ counted in the same area on 20 March was considered to represent about 75% of the total population (PT). Rare in the east, 2 were seen at Nathan's Lake, Washington Co, on 12 April (BP, LP). And at the opposite end of the state, where a significant population passes through, the best count reached 2,149 at Winters Creek L, Scotts Bluff Co, on 13 April (KL). Most moved out of central Nebraska by the end of March; "hundreds and hundreds" passed over Creighton on 28 March (MB).

Whooping Crane: The 3 reports were apparently of the same single bird which has migrated with Sandhill Cranes in recent years, probably dooming its genes to oblivion: sightings occurred between 20 and 24 March in the Denman area (PT, TEL, SM).

Black-bellied Plover: The best count was a moderate 22 made in the eastern RWB on 18 May (JGJ). Good numbers, with a total of about 60, were reported overall from 3 May at HCR (GH, WH) throughout the period.

American Golden-Plover: One spotted at FL on 31 March (BP, LP; details) was the 3rd-earliest on record. Next to arrive were 2 observed in the eastern RWB on 14 April (JGJ). Numbers were rather low, with the best count only 15, in Antelope Co between 1 and 2 May (MB).

Snowy Plover: Each spring, 1-2 have appeared in recent years in the RWB. This year's token bird was observed at FL between 2 and 5 May (MU photo at <http://204.234.8.16/~7hills/photos/Dsc00367.jpg>; LR, RH).

Semipalmated Plover: All reports came in the period between 20 April and 18 May, with the best count the 23 tallied at Summit L on 26 April (JGJ).

Piping Plover: Reports were few, most coming from breeding locations: 4 were seen at LM on 20 April (WRS); one was identified at LO on 14 May (SJD); 2 were spotted at Martin Bay, LM, on 19 May (KN); and one was found at Niobrara Marsh on 18 May (BP, LP). The 3 seen at FL on 21 April (WRS) and the one identified at Summit L on 24 May (JGJ) were migrants.

Killdeer: An excellent count was the 65 totaled in a burned field at De Soto NWR, Washington Co, on 8 April (DP, JP).

Mountain Plover: Few are reported in April to May; the only report this spring was of two observed "flying away" in the Panhandle on 19 May (CG)--no further details were provided.

Black-necked Stilt: Rarely noted in the east, and therefore a surprise, were the 3 seen at a temporary construction wetland, nicknamed Abomination Marsh by JT, in west Omaha on 26 May (JSt, photos). Unusual even as far east as the RWB, the one seen at FL between 13 and 14 April (MU, LE; MU photo at <http://204.234.8.16/~7hills/>

photos/bnstilt.jpg) was also very early; and a female was identified at Sandpiper Basin, Fillmore Co, on 27 May (JGJ). Three were also found at Scottsbluff SL on 11 May (KL), and a female was still present there on 17 May (SJD, JF). At the regular location along Highway 2 between Lakeside and Alliance, 1-3 were present from 2 to 15 May (m.ob.)

American Avocet: The best count totaled 55 at HCR on 1 May (GH, WH). Breeding is very rare in the RWB, with only a single documented record; and so an observation of copulation at FL 2 May (LB) was significant. Nesting was under way south of Morrill by 26 May (KL).

Greater Yellowlegs: One seen at FL on 16 March (LR, RH) was rather early. The best counts included 49 at FL on 31 March (BP,LP) and 48 at FL on 21 April (WRS). The three birds spotted in southwestern Dixon Co on 27 May (JJ; details) were near-record late.

Lesser Yellowlegs: The one observed at FL on 20 March (PL) was rather early. The best count reached 320 at FL on 21 April (WRS). A few still straggled through at the end of the period.

Solitary Sandpiper: Routine reports.

Willet: This species was widely reported in good numbers, including reports of about 70 birds in the east, where it is usually uncommon. The best counts in the east included 18 in Lancaster Co on 28 Apr (LE) and 17 at Nathan's L, Washington Co, on 3 May (CNK, DB); and the best count overall totaled 30 at HCR on 28 April (GH, WH). None was reported after 19 May, when 2 were spotted at CLNWR (KN), a likely breeding location.

Spotted Sandpiper: A good count was 17 tallied at LO on 15 May (SJD, JF), indicative of peak migration.

Upland Sandpiper: The best counts were 15+ found at Hannon Area, Hall Co, on 23 April (LR, RH) and 13 noted at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF). They were "plentiful" in Dodge Co, where usually only a few occur (DP, JP).

Whimbrel: Only 2 were reported, one at an unusual date and the other at an unusual location. The one seen at Oliver Res on 28 April (JF) represents only the 5th April record, while the one spotted in Antelope Co from 1 to 2 May (MB) was one of very few records from the east--where it is only casual in occurrence--and possibly the first northeastern Nebraska record.

Long-billed Curlew: The best count came from the breeding range: 34 in Sheridan (23) and Garden (11) Cos on 15 May (SJD, JF), but the 22 migrants noted at HCR on 15 May (GH, WH) was unusual: it was an excellent count of migrants, and at the eastern edge of the range. These birds make few stops during passage.

Hudsonian Godwit: Another species widely reported, but in moderate numbers; the best count was only 18, at Summit L on 6 May (JGJ). As expected for this easterly migrant, none was reported west of FL.

Marbled Godwit: This was a banner year for numbers of this species, especially eastward; about 234 were reported in the period between 8 April and 15 May. The best count totaled an excellent 84 at FL on 21 April

(WRS; details). Normally rare in the east, 8 were spotted at BOL on 14 April (JGJ); 2 were seen at PL the same day (LE); 10 were observed at Summit L on 28 April (JGJ; a new county bird for this experienced observer); 1 was seen at PL on 28 April (LE); and 9 were located in southwestern Dixon Co on 5 April (JJ).

Ruddy Turnstone: Normally a rare migrant in the east, and even rarer to the west, this species also enjoyed a good year, with about 36 birds reported in the period between 14 and 27 May and with excellent single-location counts of 12 registered in the Niobrara Marsh area on 18 May (BP, LP) and 7 tallied at Summit L on 19 May (JGJ). None was reported west of FL and HCR.

Red Knot: Only a casual migrant, one bird was reported, an alternate adult with a large flock of Sanderlings at L Minatare on 17 May (SJD, JF; details). This sighting represents only the 12th report for spring and the 5th documented; the latter records occurred in the period between 7 and 24 May.

Sanderling: Good numbers, about 170, were reported from 15 April to 25 May statewide. The best count was 72 at L Minatare on 17 May (SJD, JF), with an additional 36 counted at Scottsbluff SL the same day (SJD, JF), for an excellent day's total of 108.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: One very early bird spotted on 23 March in the central Platte Valley was reported without details. Elsewhere, good numbers were reported from 14 April throughout the period. The best count reached 500 at FL on 4 May (LR, RH).

Western Sandpiper: The usual few--a total of 8--were reported from 28 April (no details) through 30 May (no details); the latter date is extremely late for this species. Details should be provided with reports of this species, which is rare in spring, and whose migration peaks in late April. The only reports with details were of one seen at Summit L on 4 May (JGJ) and 2 alternate-plumaged adults discovered at Scottsbluff SL on 17 May (SJD, JF). The latter date marks the 3rd-latest documented record for spring.

Least Sandpiper: The one identified in the central Platte Valley on 23 March was rather early (BDy; no details). The rest were reported from 13 April (JGJ) on. The best count was a good 260 made at Memphis Lakes, Saunders Co, on 5 May (JGJ).

White-rumped Sandpiper: The best count reached a moderate 800 in the eastern RWB on 18 May (JGJ).

Baird's Sandpiper: Excellent numbers were reported statewide, exemplified by counts of 660 at FL on 21 April (WRS), the 2nd-highest spring count on record, and of 328 at Summit L on 6 May (JGJ). An early migrant, none was reported after 19 May (JGJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Rather early were the 2 birds spotted at FL on 20 March (PL) and the 3 observed there on 23 March (DM); numbers increased rapidly, however, as 45-60 were found there on 30 March (PM, JM; no details). The best count was the 64 made at FL on 21 April

(WRS). This species is rare in the west; and none was reported west of FL.

Dunlin: This spring was an excellent for this species, normally an uncommon migrant, with a rather amazing 220 reported between 30 March and 27 May. No details were provided for the 6 identified at FL on 30 March (PM, JM), a record early date by one day; but details were provided for one located there the next day (BP, LP). Good counts included the 36 seen at PL on 17 May (JG) and 35 found at Summit L the same day (JGJ). The last was an alternate-plumaged adult spotted at Nathan's L, Washington Co, on 26 May (WRS). As expected for this eastern migrant, none was reported west of FL.

Stilt Sandpiper: Excellent counts were the 818 at FL on 14 May (SJD)--the 3rd-highest spring count on record--and the 568 in Sheridan Co on 15 May (SJD, JF).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: The only reports came from the narrow eastern RWB spring migration corridor: 235 birds reported between 9 and 27 May (CG, DP, JP, JGJ). Included in this total, and stretching the eastern edge of the corridor a bit were the 12+ located in Dodge Co on 17 May (DP, JP). The best count was the 115 tallied in the eastern RWB on 18 May, including a flock of 57 spotted near North Lake Basin, Seward Co (JGJ). The 12 birds found in Clay Co 27 May (JGJ) were rather late.

Ruff: Nebraska's 6th record, all documented, and the 4th in spring, was a female seen with bright orange legs at BOL on 4 May (CB; details).

Short-billed Dowitcher: The usual few reports occurred within the documented migration period of the species; about 42 were reported between 2 and 17 May, including an excellent count of 31 registered at Summit L on 17 May (JGJ).

Long-billed Dowitcher: Tying the 2nd-earliest on record were the 1-2 birds spotted at FL between 18 and 20 March (PL, MJI, KE). A good single-locality count was the 600 tallied at FL on 4 May (LR, RH). None was reported after 19 May (DM, DH). It was pointed out that a count of 179 made at Summit L on 4 May was significant in that Iowa's high count for spring is under 100 (JGJ).

Common Snipe: An early bird identified at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 17 March (HKH) may have wintered nearby. The best count totaled 38 in the eastern RWB on 14 March (JGJ).

American Woodcock: The only reports were of one seen at ADF on 24 March (LF, CF), 2 observed displaying at Bassett on 9 April (CH), a rather westerly location, and 8 noted displaying at BOL on 15 May (JS).

Wilson's Phalarope: The earliest on record by 5 days were the 3 basic-plumaged birds identified at FL on 18 March (PL, MJI, KE). Excellent numbers were found in the Panhandle in mid-May: 1,640 at North Platte SL on 14 May (SJD), a favored staging location, and 1,315 at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF). The species was "surprisingly numerous" in the eastern RWB as late as 27 May, when 321 were counted. A Jonah wannabe apparently was the individual found in the

belly of an 18" Northern Pike caught at Twin Lakes Area, Rock Co, on 20 May (NGP, fide CH).

Red-necked Phalarope: This species was unusually abundant in the Panhandle this spring, including a record count of 557 made at Scottsbluff SL on 17 May (SJD, JF). On 16 May, 267 were seen at Scottsbluff SL, 106 at L Minatare, and 103 at Gering SL (JF). Only casual in the east, singles were observed at Summit L on 6 and again on 24 May (JGJ).

Franklin's Gull: Rather early was one spotted at Two Rivers Area, Douglas Co, on 2 March (DSt). The best count was the 3,000 found flying over Cracker Barrel Marsh, Lincoln, on 12 May (BP, LP). Unusual and unexplained were the 25 or so discovered dead and dying at the Gavin's Point Dam trailrace, Cedar Co, on 20 April (JC).

Bonaparte's Gull: Routine Reports

Ring-billed Gull: The best count was a moderate 715 made at BOL on 17 March (LE).

California Gull: The only reports were of 5 adults spotted at LM on 20 April (WRS), of one found at Gering SL on 11 May (KL), and of "several" seen at L Alice, Scotts Bluff Co, on 23 May (JG), the latter being a bit tardy.

Herring Gull: The best count reached a moderate 65 at BOL on 17 March (LE).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The only report was of one located at BOL on 17 March (PL); this sighting marks the 17th spring record for this rare but regular migrant.

Glaucous Gull: None was reported; the last dates occur in early April.

Caspian Tern: More reports than usual involved about 20 birds in the period between 11 and 27 May, all in the east; the best count was 8, made at PL on 17 May (JG, LE).

Common Tern: About 20 were reported statewide between 12 and 27 May, most at L Minatare, where 8 adults were found on 16 May (SJD, JF). A report without details was received of 3 identified at Nathan's L, Washington Co, on the very early date of 29 April; Forster's Tern arrives much earlier than Common Tern.

Forster's Tern: The first was one observed at BOL on 14 April (JGJ), about on schedule. The best count of migrants was an impressive 228 tallied on the Hall Co Spring Count on 11 May (fide CM). A pair may have started breeding at CLNWR as early as 7 May (HW, SW); 67 were counted there on 15 May (SJD, JF).

Least Tern: The only reports of this late-arriving species were of one spotted in Sarpy Co on 11 May (CNK) and two found along the Missouri River in Knox Co on 27 May (MB).

Black Tern: The first were one spotted in southwestern Dixon Co on 5 May (JJ) and 3 identified at Summit L on 6 May (JGJ). The best count was a moderate 400, tallied at PL on 12 May (fide WRS). As many as 200 were still at HCR on 29 May (GH, WH).

Rock Dove: Routine reports.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: This species is becoming widespread, especially in the western half of Nebraska, but reports this spring were statewide, involving about 65 birds. At the well-known location in Kearney in the Roger Newcomb neighborhood, 14+ were counted on 18 March (PL). At Bassett, there are about 8 pairs present, 8 birds wintering at the observer's barn (CH), and up to 5 have been present in Culbertson since summer 2000 (JSt, photos). Easterly reports included one seen at Dakota City on 2 Mar (BFH); one located at Falls City on 12 March (MB); one identified in Bellevue on 31 March (RG); and 2 observed in Omaha on 23 May (B). A nest was being built high in a conifer at Bayard between 12 and 14 May (fide AK).

White-winged Dove: Among the many Eurasian Collared-Doves located in Kearney in the Roger Newcomb neighborhood, single White-winged Doves have occasionally been reported since June 1998; but exciting belated news was of 3 "apparent juveniles" that had been present in 2001 (Roger Newcomb, fide MJJ), raising the possibility that breeding had occurred. One that had been heard but not seen in the area for 2 weeks finally appeared at the Newcomb feeder on 6 May this spring (fide LR, RH). There are now 14 Nebraska reports of this species, 5 from the Newcomb neighborhood.

Mourning Dove: Rather early for the north were 25 spotted at Jackson on 10 May (BFH). The first breeding noted was the two juveniles observed in a Lincoln yard during the last week of April (NP); this date is about as early as fledglings have been reported in Nebraska.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Only 5 were reported, surprisingly all rather far north and west, including a good count of 3 made near Creighton on 24 May (MB), and singles seen at Calamus Res on 22 May (NGP fide CH) and in pines in southwestern Morrill Co on 30 May (HW, SW). This species is rare in the west.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The first in the east was one found at FF 14 May (TP) and in the west, where it is uncommon, was a bird spotted on 22 May at Ash Hollow (JG).

Barn Owl: One was reported at Alliance on 6 April (LW), a rather early date. The other reports (4) were of singles, one spotted at a nest box, at CLNWR between 10 and 15 May (HW, SW, SJD, JF).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Routine reports.

Great Horned Owl: One was observed sitting on a nest in Harlan Co on 1 April (GH, WH), and young were seen in Lincoln on 27 April (LE).

Snowy Owl: The only report, after several reports this winter, was of one seen along I-80 between mile markers 325 and 326 by a tour group on 20 March (KE, MJJ); this date is rather late.

Burrowing Owl: About 12 were reported, the first on 14 April near Scottsbluff (KL). The only report away from the Panhandle was of 2 birds observed at Prairie Dog Basin, Kearney Co, on 2 May (LB). There have been very few reports farther east in recent years.

Barred Owl: The farthest west record for Seward Co was one spotted in the Seward City Park on 25 April (JG); this location is at the west edge of the current range in Nebraska. The small population at WP persists, with 2 seen there on 2 and again on 11 May (LE, MUs).

Long-eared Owl: None was reported; wintering birds remain into April.

Short-eared Owl: The only reports were of singles seen at Harvard Marsh and Clay Cos, on 23 March (TEL) and in Dodge Co on 29 March (DP). Numbers have been low for a few years now.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A road-killed juvenile was found on a road near Grove Lake Area, Antelope Co, on 25 May (MB, DH); its flight and tail feathers were not fully developed, suggesting it may have fledged nearby. According to Bent (Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey), incubation and fledging take about 2 months, and so eggs would have been laid around the end of March, somewhat earlier than peak laying (between 10 and 30 April), but not unusual. Although there are a few summer reports, especially from the Pine Ridge, there are no nesting records since 1900, when a nest was collected near Nebraska City. Nesting occurred near Kansas City in 1951.

Common Nighthawk: Arrival is much earlier in the east, where first sightings were of singles located in Omaha on 6 May (JT) and South Sioux City on 7 May (BFH), than in the west, where none was reported until one showed up south of Gering on 30 May (AK).

Common Poorwill: None was reported; arrival is around 1 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: The 3 reports received were from the 3 widely-scattered locations where this species has been reported in recent years; surely it occurs elsewhere? Reports from north-central Kansas (Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas) suggest that searches could be made from the eastern Republican River valley eastward. One was heard calling for the 3rd consecutive summer along the Platte River about 5 miles east of the Kearney exit on 8 May (PT). Also a regular location is Wolf L, along the Platte River in northern Saunders Co, where up to 3 were heard beginning 11 May (TH). One was seen at ICSP on 11 May; it was identified by its size as it sat on a sign, later measured (WRS).

Whip-poor-will: The one spotted in extreme western Keya Paha Co near Highway 12 on 7 May (Nancy Reinhardt fide CH) was at the western edge of the Niobrara Valley range; Mossman and Brogie found the species west to extreme eastern Cherry Co in 1982. The one observed at ADF on 26 April (LF, CF) was rather early. The only other reports this spring came from the southeast (RB, RHS).

Chimney Swift: Routine reports.

White-throated Swift: The only reports came from Scotts Bluff Co, where the first was noted on 28 April (AK, HW, SW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The reports came mostly from the Missouri Valley, but the first was one spotted in Lincoln between 5 and 6 May (TEL), and one was identified in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Belted Kingfisher: Routine reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: The Hall Co Spring Count found a moderate 57 on 11 May (fide CM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Only 3 were reported: a female seen at a feeder between 3 and 25 March in Bellevue (BP, LP) may have wintered nearby, as 3 March is a rather early arrival date for a migrant; singles were spotted in Lincoln on 29 March (TEL) and on 18 April (TP).

Downy Woodpecker: Routine reports.

Hairy Woodpecker: The one netted in a Bellevue yard had been banded there as a Hatching Year bird in July 1996 (RG fide KCR).

Northern Flicker: A "red-shafted" flicker was found at Long Pine Area, Brown Co, on 5 March (NP); another was spotted near Overton on 15 March (LR, RH), and a male and female were seen in southwestern Adams Co on 30 March (LR, RH); most of these birds depart by early April.

Pileated Woodpecker: Sightings of single birds, including two specifying a male but none mentioning a female, were made at FF throughout the period; no mention of nesting was received. Of interest was a report of 2 birds observed entering holes in dead trees at the south end of ICSP on 14 May (DSh fide TEL); it has been a few years since this species was reported at ICSP.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Very rare in the west, one was found at Ash Hollow on 15 May (SJD, JF). Somewhat westerly also was one identified in Boyd Co on 29 May (MB). Only 7 were reported in all, the first one observed in Otoe Co on 10 May (CF, LF).

Western Wood-Pewee: A late arriver, the only reports were of one located at Ash Hollow on 22 May (JG) and an interesting report of several pairs heard calling at the Valentine Fish Hatchery on 30 May (LB). The eastward limit of this species in the Niobrara Valley is unknown; the only other fairly recent report as far east as Cherry Co was of songs described as having the "song pattern of Eastern Wood-Pewee and tone quality of Western Wood-Pewee" in Cherry Co on 21 May 1989 (Am. Birds 43:501). Perhaps summering birds in this area are hybrids or have learned songs from both wood-pewee species.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The first were singles spotted at ICSP and ADF on 5 May (WRS, LF, CF). A good count was 8, made at ICSP on 27 May (LR, RH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The only report of this rarely-reported migrant was of one spotted in Omaha on 15 May (CHy; details).

Acadian Flycatcher: On the early side was one seen at FF on 13 May (SJD); another was of one heard singing on Hackberry Trail at FF on 29 May (B). The only other report for this late arriver was of a single observed at ICSP on 26 May (LR, RH), a regular location.

Alder Flycatcher: Arrival dates for this species in Nebraska are poorly documented. Available evidence suggests that the first birds

appear around May 12 ("Birds of Nebraska"); singles seen at Schramm Park on 12 May and at WP on 18 May were identified as Alders based on habitat and structure (WRS). Additional singles were reported from FF on 25 May (B) and ADF on 29 May; the latter bird was heard and seen (LF, CF). A singing bird located at Wehrspann L on 1 May was identified by an experienced observer as an Alder; this date is extremely early, even for Willow Flycatcher, the species whose song is most easily confused with that of Alder. There are no other Nebraska reports of Alder earlier than 6 May.

Willow Flycatcher: The first were reported on 11 May, when 10 were counted in Hall Co (fide CM; LR, RH); and a single was spotted at Platte River SP (JJ). None was reported west of Calamus Res.

Least Flycatcher: The earliest-arriving empid, the first birds reported were singles identified at ADF on 2 May (LF, CF) and in Platte Co the same day (DP, JP). The best count totaled 37 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). Reports occurred statewide. The last southerly bird was one observed in Omaha on 25 May (RHS).

Dusky Flycatcher: Details were provided for one located at Oliver Res on 17 May (SJD, JF); this sighting marks only the 2nd spring report, but fall netting is showing that this species may be a regular Panhandle migrant, at least in fall.

Empidonax sp.: Good counts included the 15 tallied at Schramm Park on 11 May (m.ob.) and the 14 found at WP on 18 May (WRS).

Eastern Phoebe: Early to arrive in spring, one had returned to a regular Bellevue territory by 18 March (RB), rather early. A nest with an egg was found under a bridge in Keya Paha Co 7 Apr (DSt), possibly a record early egg date for northern Nebraska, where birds do not usually arrive until late March. A good count was the 9 tallied in southwestern Adams Co on 30 March (LR, RH). None was reported west of Adams and Harlan Cos.

Say's Phoebe: The one identified at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 1 April was rather early (HKH). Somewhat easterly was the one spotted in Harlan Co on 19 April (GH, WH). Only 4 were reported in all.

Great Crested Flycatcher: Arrival was rather early, and numbers were good for this species; the singles seen at Neale Woods, Washington Co, on 22 April (B) and at ADF on 24 April (LF, CF) were close to early arrival dates, and a record spring count was the 41 tallied at ICSP on 26 May (LR, RH). None was reported from the west.

Cassin's Kingbird: None was reported; arrival occurs in early May.

Western Kingbird: A good count was 37, made in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Eastern Kingbird: An excellent count reached 129 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Northern Shrike: The last bird was spotted as far southeast as BOL, on 30 March (fide DP, JP).

Loggerhead Shrike: The three seen in Lancaster Co on 17 March (LE) were the earliest reported.

Bell's Vireo: The one found at CLNWR on 7 May (HW, SW) was rather early for the Panhandle.

Yellow-throated Vireo: The first were 3 identified at ICSP on 28 April (WRS) and one found in southeastern Otoe Co the next day (LF, CF). Unexpected was one located as far west as LM on 5 May (AC); there are only 2 Panhandle reports. Other westerly reports were of singles identified at Schuyler City Park on 2 May (DP, JP) and in Knox Co on 19 May (BP, LP).

Plumbeous Vireo: The reports were of single migrants found at Scotts Bluff NM and Riverside Park, Scottsbluff, on 17 May (SJD, JF), and 2 birds observed in breeding habitat in Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co, on 23 May (JG).

Blue-headed Vireo: The one spotted at ICSP on 28 April (WRS) was rather early. Numbers were average; none was reported west of Platte Co.

Warbling Vireo: Arrival was on the early side: the first were singles observed at De Soto NWR, Washington Co, on 24 April (JGJ) and at FF and in Harlan Co on 25 April (BP, LP, GH, WH). The only report from the Panhandle was of one seen at L Minatare on 25 May (AK).

Philadelphia Vireo: The two reported were about the norm: singles found at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD) and in Cuming Co on 20 May (LE).

Red-eyed Vireo: Excellent counts were the 23 tallied at ICSP on 14 May (WRS) and the 22 registered at WP on 18 May (WRS). Uncommon in the west, 2 were spotted at WLC on 17 May (SJD, JF); 2 were seen at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF); and one was spotted along Stage Hill Rd, Scotts Bluff Co, on 17 May (SJD, JF). An interesting snippet of information resulted from Joel Jorgensen's noting a color-banded bird at Platte River SP on 12 May; it turned out to be an adult male banded there by Jim Mountjoy on 3 June 1995, now a rather old Red-eyed Vireo.

Blue Jay: A good total of 171 was reported in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). A good count for the west was the 7 tallied at a Mitchell feeder on 11 March (KL).

Pinyon Jay: The only report was of "several flocks" found in Smiley Canyon, Sioux Co, on 23 May (JG).

Clark's Nutcracker: Probably the most reliable place to find this casual winter visitor and breeder is the Monroe Canyon area in Sioux Co; one was identifying flying east over the canyon on 6 April (WM).

Black-billed Magpie: Consolidating the breeding range southeastward were up to 5 birds which wintered around the Paseka farm in central Dodge Co and then seemingly disappeared until a nest with 3 associated adults was found on 19 May (DP, JP); the nest had 5 eggs on 28 May (WM). Breeding has occurred in recent years southeast to Cuming, Dodge, and Lancaster Cos.

American Crow: An excellent count of spring migrants was the 300 tallied near Johnstown, Brown Co, on 5 March (NP); peak migration occurs in early March.

Horned Lark: Territories are occupied very early--this year in Lancaster Co by about mid-February (LE).

Purple Martin: Two males arrived at Creighton on 4 April and chirped until their house was put out at the same spot as last year; females appeared on 13 April (MB). Westerly were 3 pairs spotted at Alma which were occupying houses by 15 May (GH, WH), and 12 birds located at Shelton, where the first arrived on 5 April and were using boxes by 10 May (MM).

Tree Swallow: This species is becoming more widespread as a breeder, and commonly utilizes bluebird boxes. Excellent fledging success was noted at Twin Lakes, Seward Co, where 42 Eastern Bluebird and 60 Tree Swallow young fledged from 22 boxes (LRB, JK). A record spring count was the 530 tallied in Lancaster Co on 12 May (LE); also an excellent count was the 330, made at Wagontrain L, Lancaster Co, on 20 April (LE). The first were the 2 identified at FF on 27 March (BP, LP), about on schedule. Although birds were at nest boxes by mid-April (LR, RH, AR), no eggs were reported until 30 May, the latter 2-3 nests noted in southwestern Dixon Co, the first in the observer's bluebird boxes (JJ).

Violet-Green Swallow: An excellent count was the 39+ registered at Scottsbluff SL on 16 May (SJD, J F); 2 more were found at Gering SL the same day (SJD, JF).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: An excellent count was 235, made in Lancaster Co on 12 May (LE). A thoughtfully estimated 10,000 swallows gathered at PL on 11 May (WRS) contained approximately equal numbers of Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff, and Barn Swallows.

Bank Swallow: At least one appeared at FF on 15 April (AR), a rather early date. An excellent total was the 320 noted in Lancaster Co on 12 May (LE). Only one was reported in the west: a single spotted at L Minatare on 25 May (AK).

Cliff Swallow: The 3 seen at Alma on 13 April (GH, WH) were rather early. Good numbers were reported, including 908 registered on the Hall Co Spring Count on 11 May (fide CM).

Barn Swallow: The one seen at BOL on 6 April (LE) was rather early. Good counts included 302, made in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and 260, totaled in Lancaster Co on 12 May (LE).

Black-capped Chickadee: Copulation was observed on 13 April at WP (LE); this date appears to be rather early, as egg dates cited by Mollhoff ("Nebraska Breeding Bird Atlas") occur between 1 and 27 May.

Mountain Chickadee: The one identified at a feeder in Morrill on 21 March had been there since about 20 January (ECT). This sighting marks only the 3rd report since the incursion of 1996-97.

Tufted Titmouse: Routine reports.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Nesting was underway at NNF, Halsey, by 14 May; 5 were banded there between 2 and 3 May (RG). The 6 birds located in Carter Canyon and the one found along Stage Hill Road, both in Scotts Bluff Co, on 16 May (SJD, JF) probably were local breeders. The status of one spotted at a Mitchell feeder on 31 May (KL) is problematic; it may have been a late migrant. The last to leave the east was one observed at Holmes L, Lincoln, on 1 May (LE).

White-breasted Nuthatch: In summer, the western subspecies *nelsoni* is thought to be confined to Ponderosa Pine habitat on the Pine Ridge (but apparently absent from similar habitat in the Wildcat Hills), and the subspecific identity of the few White-breasted Nuthatches reported in summer in the North Platte Valley has been uncertain. It appears, though, that birds reported from late spring through early fall at L Minatare (SJD) are the eastern subspecies *cookei*, as one was heard there on 17 May (SJD, JF). Another, unidentified to subspecies, was seen there on 25 May (AK), a late date for a wintering bird. It makes sense that eastern birds would spread westward in the Platte Valley riparian corridor.

Pygmy Nuthatch: The only reports were of 2-3 spotted in a 3-species nuthatch flock in Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co, on 6 April (WM), and of singles identified at Wildcat Hills NC on 28 Apr and on 14 May (HW, SW). The latter spot has recently been shown to be a breeding location.

Brown Creeper: The last wintering bird was probably the one spotted at Wehrspann L on 10 April (JWH); the last in Lancaster Co were 3 observed on 7 April (LE). The one seen in a Bellevue yard on 9 May (MA) may have been a FF breeder: the tiny breeding population (one pair?) at FF persists, with a pair observed on North Stream Trail on 14 March (BP, LP) and 2 birds located there 25 May (CHy).

Rock Wren: Few are reported these days; the only reports were of 3 singles discovered in breeding habitat in the Panhandle between 26 and 31 May (HW, SW, B).

Carolina Wren: The single bird observed wintering at PSP was still there on 30 March (BFH) but unreported subsequently. Small numbers are present in Wilderness and Pioneer Parks, Lincoln; 1-2 were found at each location during the period (LE, TP, MUs). Other reports were from 25th and South in Lincoln (TP); 2 birds spotted at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha (JGJ), ICSP (WRS), and Towle Park, Omaha (NR). A surprising location was Hall Co, where 3 birds were found on 11 May (fide CM), although there was a prior report on 4 January 2000 at Grand Island.

House Wren: The one seen in Lincoln on 7 April (JK fide LRB) was rather early. The one banded in a Bellevue yard in 1998 was recaptured in the same yard on 6 May (RG, KCR). An indication of the abundance of this species is the Hall County Spring Count total of 302 made on 11 May (fide CM).

Winter Wren: The single wintering below BOL Dam was last seen on 17 March (LE). The few reports elsewhere occurred in the short period from

5 to 9 April, except for a very late bird seen at Towle Park, Omaha between 24 and 25 May (CHy). There is an undocumented report from 30 May 1965 in Adams Co; the last dates ("Birds of Nebraska") are 9,10, and 15 May.

Sedge Wren: About 15 were reported in the period between 28 April and 30 May from Hall Co eastward, a typical spring. Few normally remain to breed, although "several" found at Jack Sinn Area, Lancaster Co, on 23 May (RHS) and 3 observed singing at Burchard L, Pawnee Co, from 27 to 30 May (BP, LP) would be likely candidates.

Marsh Wren: Routine reports.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Routine reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Widely reported between 1 April and 19 May (TP, JGJ), the best count was a moderate 13 tallied in Nemaha Co on 28 April (WRS).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: This species is on a serious population upswing. In the southeast, it was ubiquitous, with best counts a record 19 at ICSP on 28 April (WRS) and 12 at Schramm Park on 12 May (BP, LP, m.ob.). In the east, it was reported north to Platte Co on 26 April (DP, JP); to Burt Co on 30 April, a county first for the experienced observer (JGJ), and on 7 May (BP, LP); and as far as Dixon Co on 4 May (JJ) and 19 May (NOU Field Trip), and Knox Co on 11 May (MB). Several were reported in Lancaster Co (LE, MUs). In the west, where the population increase in recent years has been amazing, 2 were spotted at Ash Hollow on 20 April (WRS); and one was identified at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD)--the latter location is significantly north of most western reports, which have generally been confined to Scotts Bluff Co and southward.

Eastern Bluebird: A pair observed building a nest at Twin Lakes, Seward Co, on 12 March was rather early; eggs were found in 2 nests there by 12 April (LRB, JK). Fledging success was noted to be excellent, with 42 Eastern Bluebird and 60 Tree Swallow young fledged from 22 boxes, possibly due to the prairie being burned on 11 May and insects easier to find in the shorter grass (JK, LRB). Eggs and nestlings 2-3 days old were found in Wildcat Hills NC boxes on 15 May (HW, SW).

Western Bluebird: Good details were provided of 2 birds located in a Scottsbluff yard on 9 May (PD, DD); if this report is accepted by the NOURC, it would mark the first documented record for the state, despite there being 6 prior reports, 2 in spring.

Mountain Bluebird: All reports came from the Panhandle. The best count reached a record 100+ birds eating caterpillars in a yard south of Gering on 22 March (AK)--quite a sight! Nest boxes at Wildcat Hills NC had eggs by 15 May (HW, SW).

Townsend's Solitaire: Few reporters mentioned this species; the one seen at Ash Hollow on 20 April (WRS) was a bit tardy.

Veery: Only 2 were reported in the east, both at Schramm Park on 16 May (JS); but even though Veery is considered rare but regular in both

the west and the east and is rarest in central Nebraska ("Birds of Nebraska"), a real surprise was the 6 found in the Panhandle from 15 to 17 May (SJD, JF). Three of the 6 were spotted in Sheridan Co on 15 May, and the other three were singles observed at CLNWR 1 on 5 May, Riverside Park in Scottsbluff on 16 May, and at Oliver Res on 16 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: This year was excellent for this species, most notably in the west, where it is generally only casual in occurrence. Five were found, adding significantly to only 25 prior records for the Panhandle: 2 spotted at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF), and singles seen in Sheridan Co on 15 May (SJD, JF); in Sowbelly Canyon, Sioux Co, on 23 May (JG); and at WLC on 24 May (JG). Elsewhere, mostly in the east, about 13 were reported (m.ob.) from 30 April, rather early (JSc, CH), through 29 May.

Swainson's Thrush: Continuing the excellent showing of *Catharus* thrushes, this bird, the most common of the group in Nebraska by far, was widely reported in good numbers, for a total of about 255, including an amazing 148 counted in the Panhandle on 15 May (SJD, JF). A good eastern count was the 18 tallied at ICSP on 14 May (SJD). Overall, reports occurred in the normal period between 30 April and 30 May (m.ob.).

Hermit Thrush: The one spotted at PL on 3 March had wintered there (LE); this species is only casual as a wintering bird. Only 3 migrants were noted in the east: one observed at FF on 5 April (KCR) and 2 found at WP on 13 April (LE). Rare in the west, one was seen at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 16 May (SJD, JF), presumably of the race *auduboni*, given the late date and westerly location.

Wood Thrush: Farthest west was one located in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM), where it is rare; numbers were good in the Missouri Valley, with over 50 reported, including confirmed nesting at Ponca SP on 14 May (BFH).

American Robin: The best counts included 1,200 tallied at Wolf L, Saunders Co, on 6 April (TH), presumably migrants, and 1,024 totaled in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM), presumably local breeders. Nesting gets underway fairly early: one was spotted carrying nesting material at Alliance on 12 April (LW), and incubating birds were noted on 24 (JLL) and 28 (NP) April in Lincoln. "Baby robins" were about in Bassett by 21 May (CH).

Varied Thrush: There were 2 reports, both apparently "one-day wonders": singles sighted near Fort Calhoun on 1 March (PW, LM, no details) and in Omaha on 9 March (B, no details). These are only the 33rd and 34th Nebraska reports, and the 7th and 8th since 1991.

Gray Catbird: An excellent count was the 108 registered on the Hall Co Spring Count on 11 May (fide CM). One made it to CLNWR by 10 May (HW, SW), a rather early date for the west, and 6 were spotted in Alliance on 16 May (LW), a good western count. The only other report from the west was of one identified at WLC on 25 May (AK). A

remarkable banding recovery was of a Hatching Year bird banded in Rhode Island (!) in 1991 and recaptured at Wehrspann L on 15 May; the bander (RG) noted it was the oldest catbird she could remember and suggested it was looking for the Nebraska "good life."

Northern Mockingbird: This species continues to be reported more often these days than formerly. About 15 were found, including a northerly individual seen in Antelope Co between 18 and 25 May (NOU Field Trip, MB). Rather early was one seen in Washington Co on 14 March (CHy); another March sighting was one spotted at BOL on 30 March (DP, JP).

Sage Thrasher: Not often reported in spring, when it is only casual in occurrence, one was found at Toadstool Park, Sioux Co, on 26 May (B; no details), a date which is indicative of a bird attempting to summer.

Brown Thrasher: The one spotted at WLC on 28 April (JF) was rather early for the west. The Hall Co Spring Count turned up an excellent tally of 161 on 11 May (fide CM).

European Starling: The Hall Co Spring Count of 11 May found 1,357 (fide CM), presumably local summering birds.

American Pipit: There were only 3 reports, all in the expected migration period: one was found at Gleason Basin, Kearney Co, on 6 April (LR, RH); 16 were located in York Co on 26 April (MB); and 2 were observed in a burned area at Boyer Chute NWR, Washington Co, on 30 April (JSc, CHe).

Sprague's Pipit: Two were reported near Wood Duck Area, Stanton Co, on the NOU Field Trip of 18 May (LR, RH; no details). This date is rather late for spring migrants.

Cedar Waxwing: Routine reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: The only report of this casual spring migrant was of one spotted at WP on 11 May (LE, MUs).

Golden-winged Warbler: This species is being reported regularly in small numbers in recent years. This year, 7 were reported between 5 and 17 May (m.ob.); the farthest west was a single seen in southwestern Butler Co on 17 May (JG).

Tennessee Warbler: This species occurred in larger than usual numbers, most notably in the west. An excellent count was the 96 tallied in Lancaster Co on 25 May (LE); and other good counts included the 62 made at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 16 May (WRS) and the 60 registered at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD). Remarkable were the numbers found in the west, an "extraordinary westward shift" (JF). Normally rare there, with about 25 reports prior to this spring, 3 were found in Scotts Bluff Co on 16 May (SJD, JF), and 4 were seen there on 17 May (SJD, JF). The one spotted at Pioneer's Park, Lincoln, on 25 April (TP) was rather early; and last was one identified in Bellevue on 28 May (BP, LP).

Orange-crowned Warbler: This species was widely reported also, in the period from 17 April to 20 May in the east, with later reports at

Calamus Res on 22 May (NGP fide CH) and in Scotts Bluff Co on 25 May (AK). The best counts were 50 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and 37 counted at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD).

Nashville Warbler: Another species much in evidence this spring, the best counts reached 9 at FF on 12 May (RHS) and 8 at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD). Sightings occurred in the period between 4 and 22 May; the latter date also represents the most westerly location, at Calamus Res (NGP fide CH).

Northern Parula: Good numbers were noted, especially at ICSP, where 5 were located on 28 April and again on 5 May (WRS). The first was one spotted at FF on 17 April (BP, LP), about on time. Unusual in far northcentral Nebraska were the 2 found on a thistle feeder with goldfinches on 17 May (CH).

Yellow Warbler: An excellent count was the 186 tallied on the Hall Co Spring Count of 11 May (fide CM). The first was one seen in Lincoln on 29 April (SH).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One of the low-density wood-warblers making a good showing this spring, about 25 were reported between 30 April and 31 May. The earliest, a single observed in Lincoln (LE), was the 3rd-earliest on record. Westerly was the observer's first for Knox Co, seen on 25 May (MB, DH).

Magnolia Warbler: Another low-density species widely-reported, about 41 were found from 5 to 20 May, a fairly narrow migration window. The best count totaled a surprising 7 in Cuming Co on 20 May, 5 of these observed in Wilderness Park, West Point (LE). Rare in the Panhandle, with only 13 prior records, 2 were found this spring: a single seen at CLNWR on 10 May (HW, SW) and a male identified at Ash Hollow on 15 May (SJD, JF).

Cape May Warbler: Probably unprecedented was the surprising influx of this species this spring, the 10 reports comparing favorably with the entire total of 50 prior records, including only 13 since 1982. First was a first-spring female discovered at the observers' bird bath in Bellevue on 10 May (BP, LP). This sighting was followed by a male seen at FF on 12 May (RHS); one found at Arbor Lodge SHP, Nebraska City, on 14 May (SJD); one spotted at another bird bath, in Lincoln on 14 May (B); one identified drinking from a yard pond in Papillion on 15 May (PS); a female found north of Creighton between 15 and 18 May (MB, BP, LP); a male spotted at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 15 May (WRS); a male spotted at Towle Park, Omaha, on 17 May (NR); one identified at Crystal Cove L, South Sioux City, on 18 May (BFH); and a singing male observed at a Norfolk cemetery on 19 May (BP, LP, LR, RH). Since 1982, including this spring's 10 reports, the 23 reports occur in the narrow window between 7 and 21 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: The only report of this casual species was of a female found at the north end of Hummel Park, Omaha, on 10 May (CHy).

Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler: A few were reported, including one located "among dozens of myrtles" in Colfax Co on 2 May (DP, JP); this sighting appears to be only the 5th report for the east, and the 2nd by these observers. Others included 6 seen in the Bushnell Cem on 20 April (WRS); 2 spotted at Ash Hollow the same day (WRS); and one found at Wildcat Hills NC on 15 May (HW, SW).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: The two spotted at Niobrara SP on 3 March wintered there (MB); this account represents probably the northernmost wintering report for the state. Three seen at FF on 18 March (BP, LP) probably were the first migrants. The best count was the 154 tallied in Nemaha Co on 28 April; all but 11 were males (WRS). The last reported were spotted in the east: one on 19 May in Cuming Co (LE) and two in Norfolk the same day (BP, LP); a single located at L Minatare on 25 May was not identified to subspecies (AK).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Yet another low-density species that was much in evidence, about 24 were reported between 1 and 19 May, with best count of 3 made at Arbor Lodge SHP on 14 May (SJD). Most were found in the Missouri Valley, with the westernmost one spotted at Stromsburg on 19 May (JGJ).

Hermit Warbler: The bird of the spring was a male identified in a grove of pines 5.5 miles north of Creighton on 15 May (MB, BB, photos). If accepted by NOURC, this sighting would be the first documented record for Nebraska. There are, however, 10 spring records from neighboring states: 7 from eastern Colorado seen between 27 April and 17 May; one from Kansas spotted on 7 May; and 2 from Minnesota seen on 3 and on 14 May ("Birds of Nebraska"). The only prior report for Nebraska is undocumented: one observed in McPherson Co on 21 Sep 1973. Intriguing also was a report without details from an experienced birder of a "possible" Hermit Warbler located at NNF, Halsey, on 26 May (B).

Blackburnian Warbler: Good numbers were reported, although not as much above the norm as some of the other low-density migrants. About 11 were found between 11 and 25 May, west to Norfolk, where one was found on an NOU Field Trip on 17 May (NP, NOU).

Yellow-throated Warbler: The first was a singing bird noted at Neale Woods, Washington Co, on 12 April (BP, LP), rather early even for this early-to-arrive resident. Numbers at FF were excellent, with as many as 7 found there on 13 April (BP, LP); it seems that all were early and arrived together! The only report elsewhere was of one spotted in Stanton Co on 19 May (NOU, no details).

Pine Warbler: Only the 4th documented spring record for this species was an obliging male which appeared at the observers' feeder in Bellevue on a few cold March days, March 3, 14, and 25 (BP, LP). This bird may well be the same one that visited this feeder from 12 to 17 March 2000. Pine Warblers are very early spring migrants and rather cold-tolerant.

Palm Warbler: A normal spring for this species involved about 21 birds sighted between 29 April and 14 May (m.ob.). The best count

reached 4 at L North/L Babcock, Platte Co, on 2 May (DP, JP). Westernmost was one spotted in Antelope Co on 3 May (MB).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Normally rare in spring, this species was another low-density migrant to appear in relatively good numbers. Five were reported, where 1-2 is the norm: one was noted at FF on 12 May (CHe fide RHS); a cooperative male was seen by many at a Norfolk cemetery between 17 and 19 May (NP, NOU Field Trip, MB, BP, LP, LR, RH); one was identified at Towle Park, Omaha, on 19 May (B); another was observed at FF on 19 May (B); and one was found in Cuming Co on 20 May (LE).

Blackpoll Warbler: A female seen at Geneva Cem on 28 April (LR, RH, GW) was rather early. The best count totaled 14 at Lutheran Cem, Norfolk, on 19 May (LR, RH). Uncommon in the Panhandle, 3 were reported: a singing male found at Scottsbluff SL on 17 May (SJD, JF), and singles spotted at Walgren L, Sheridan Co, on 21 May (B) and at L Minatare on 25 May (fide AK), the latter being the last migrant reported. And now, a Blackpoll story: BP was looking at a Blackpoll Warbler at FF when LP said "It's a Sora!"; BP thought LP had gone over the edge, until BP realized that LP indeed was looking at a Sora--20 feet up in a tree (the Sora, that is).

Cerulean Warbler: Three were reported in apparently suitable breeding habitat (streamside forest), but only one stayed for any length of time. One was found singing at the Trail 9 trailhead at ICSP on 5 May, where it was found last year; but it was not found on later visits this year (WRS). A cooperative singing bird observed at the north end of Hummel Park, Omaha, was seen by several observers on 8 May and throughout the period (NR, m.ob.). Another bird was identified at FF for one day, 14 May (TP, BP, LP). A presumed migrant was seen in the observer's rural yard in southwestern Dixon Co on 15 May (JJ).

Black-and-white Warbler: Good numbers were detected between 30 April and 20 May in the east--the last for the state was a single spotted in Scotts Bluff Co on 25 May (AK). The best count was 8, registered at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD).

American Redstart: This species was conspicuous this spring, with good numbers reported beginning on 2 May (BP, LP) and through the period. The best count reached 29 at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD). All 16 birds counted at ICSP on 5 May were males (WRS).

Prothonotary Warbler: A male observed foraging in leaf litter at FF on 17 April (BP, LP) was the 2nd-earliest ever. Up to 3 were reported at FF throughout the period, although no evidence of breeding was reported. One bird had returned to suitable breeding habitat at ICSP by 5 May (WRS) and was subsequently seen by other observers (SJD, JJD, DSh). Unexpected was one spotted at a small Omaha wetland from 6 to 7 May (fide KCR), and one identified at Hormel Park, Fremont, on 27 May (DP, JP). Less of a surprise was one located at a small pond at the north end of Neale Woods, Washington Co, on 7 May (B). Most unexpected was a

singing male spotted at L Minatare between 16 and 17 May (SJD, JF, photos), only the 3rd Panhandle record.

Worm-eating Warbler: Speaking of the unexpected, a singing bird was observed closely at WLC on 17 May (SJD, JF; details), and details were provided for one found in a Scottsbluff yard on 6 May (PD, DD). These descriptions mark the 3rd and 4th spring Panhandle records; there is a single fall Panhandle record (see below). Possibly the two reports made this spring were of the same individual, although multiple birds are not unprecedented in the Panhandle; there is an amazing record of "several" seen in a chokeberry thicket in Scotts Bluff Co in October 1957, one of which is now a specimen at Bell Museum of Natural History ("Birds of Nebraska").

Ovenbird: The one spotted in Sarpy Co on 24 April (B) was rather early. The best count reached 7 at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD). Reports occurred statewide.

Northern Waterthrush: About normal numbers were reported, led off by a rather early bird found at FF on 25 April (RHS, BG). The last reported were singles located in Pierce and Platte Cos on 18 May (DM, NOU Field Trip) and one spotted at Stromsburg on 19 May (JGJ). Uncommon in the west, 6 were reported between 15 and 17 May, the dates coincident with a visit by SJD and JF.

Louisiana Waterthrush: This species has appeared with some regularity at favored locations in recent years. One arrived rather early at FF on 11 April (record early is 30 Mar!), and 1 to 2 were reported subsequently in Mormon and Child's Hollows (m.ob.); two were observed gathering nest material in Child's Hollow on 2 May (BP, LP). Pairs were seen at 2 locations frequented last year on Trails 5 and 9 at ICSP on 28 April and were seen there again on 5 and again on 11 May (WRS). Platte River SP is a regular spot also; singles were found there on 8 and on 11 May (CNK, DP, JP, JGJ). Across the river at Schramm Park, one was found on 11 May (m.ob.). Only casual away from known breeding locations, one was noted at Wagon Train L, Lancaster Co, on 5 May (LE); and probably the 1st record for Knox Co was one identified at Bazile Creek on 9 May (MB).

Kentucky Warbler: Increasing in recent years in the lower Missouri Valley, good numbers were found at ICSP, with 5 seen on 5 May (WRS) and 14 May (SJD, JJD), and at Schramm Park, with 5 found on 26 May (BP, LP). The one seen and heard at ADF on 24 April (LF, CF) was record early by 4 days. Westerly reports included singles spotted in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM, no details) and at Calamus Res on 22 May (NGP fide CH, no details). These sightings mark only the 7th and 8th reports away from the Missouri Valley; there is a single Panhandle record. Two birds seen at Neale Woods, Douglas Co, on 4 May "were in either amorous or combative pursuit, but it was hard for us old guys to tell the difference" (NR).

Connecticut Warbler: None was reported; this species is rare but regular in spring.

Mourning Warbler: Numbers were about normal, with about 14 reported in the short period between 13 and 19 May (m.ob.). Only the 3rd spring Panhandle record was a male observed closely and seen to have no eye-ring at WLC 17 May (SJD, JF; details).

MacGillivray's Warbler: Six were reported from the Panhandle from 1 to 17 May, including 2 spotted at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 1 May (HKH); 2 observed at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF); and singles identified at Stage Hill Rd, Scotts Bluff Co, on 17 May (SJD, JF) and at Oliver Res on 17 May (SJD, JF).

Common Yellowthroat: The one observed at SCP on 24 April (KP) was rather early. The best count was the 92 tallied on the Hall Co Spring Count of 11 May (fide CM).

Hooded Warbler: Seemingly more common in the west than in the east lately, the only reports were two from the Scottsbluff area. A female was spotted in the Nora Mae Vance yard in Scottsbluff on 4 May (fide AK, PD, DD; details), and another female was seen at WLC on 17 May (SJD, JF; details). These mark, surprisingly, the 10th and 11th Panhandle spring records for this supposedly southeastern United States species.

Wilson's Warbler: This spring was about a normal for this species, with reports of about 27 birds seen between 2 and 20 May (m.ob.). The best count was 3, made at FF on 12 May (RHS). None was reported west of Hall Co.

Canada Warbler: The usual few of this late migrant were reported, about 5 in all: a male was spotted in Creighton on 9 May (MB) and singles were identified in Cuming Co on 20 May (LE); at FF on 25 and again on 27 May (LB, B); and at ADF on 26 May (LF, CF). The Creighton and Cuming Co records are two of very few away from the Missouri Valley.

Yellow-breasted Chat: One of few recent records from the east, where the species is only casual, was the one seen at WP on 13 May (LE). Around HCR, 1-2 were found between 28 April and 28 May (GH, WH), the first a rather early date. The best count reached 7 along Stage Hill Road, Scotts Bluff Co, on 17 May (SJD, JF).

Summer Tanager: This species continues to be more evident in southeastern Nebraska. At ICSP, 4 had arrived by 5 May (WRS), rather early, and 9 were seen there on 14 May (SJD, JJD) and 8 on 27 May (LR, RH). Elsewhere in the Missouri Valley, singles were observed at FF on 12 May (RHS), on 14 and 19 May (B), and on 27 May (BP, LP); at Forest Lawn Cem, Omaha, on 16 May (WRS); and at Hummel Park, Omaha, on 8 May (NR). A little to the west, a "bright" first-year male was seen at WP between 11 and 13 May (MUs, LE). Farther afield, one was observed in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM, no details); there are only about 13 reports west of Grand Island.

Scarlet Tanager: Nebraska's earliest ever Scarlet Tanager was a male identified at a feeder at King L, Douglas Co, on 15 April (B). Early

arrival dates are 25, 26, and 26 April, but there are earlier dates of 18 and 20 April ("Birds of Nebraska"). The rest started arriving at the more sensible date of 4 May: at Neale Woods (NR) and as far north as Ponca SP (BFH). Perhaps the latter sighting was the King Lake bird! Good numbers were reported, as with Summer Tanager. The best count reached 6, at ICSP on 5 May, all males (WRS), at ICSP on 14 May (SJD, JJD), and at FF on 12 May, 4 males and 2 females (RHS). Reports all occurred in the Missouri Valley except for one bird seen at Norfolk on 17 May, an orange variant (NP); singles found at WP on 18 and on 25 May (WRS, LE); and a male that provided a study in red by eating crab apples on the ground in Lincoln on 21 May (JLL fide TEL).

Western Tanager: There was some evidence for eastward movement this spring: 2 were spotted in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM; no details); one was identified at LM on 15 May (SJD, JF); and 2 were located at CLNWR on 15 May (SJD, JF). There are 5 records from the Missouri Valley. A good count was 5, made in Scotts Bluff Co on 16 May (SJD, JF), and 3 were seen at Bushnell Cem on 13 May (PS).

Green-tailed Towhee: None was reported; migrants are rare but regular in the west in May.

Spotted Towhee: The one spotted in southwestern Hall Co on 23 March (TEL) was an early migrant, as was another noted near Gibbon on 31 March (LR, RH). Migrants return to central Nebraska in late March-early April; wintering is rare there. Birds had reached the west on time: a male was observed at Oliver Res on 20 April (WRS). Good counts included the 31 tallied at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 1 May (HKH), and 42 registered in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM)--the latter date is rather late for as high a count at that location.

Eastern Towhee: The one observed at ADF on 13 March (LE) must have wintered nearby; the earliest migrants were singles noted at BOL on 6 April (LE) and at De Soto NWR, Washington Co, on 8 April (DP, JP). The best count totaled 5 at WP on 13 May (LE). Westerly were singles found at Fort Kearny in Buffalo Co, on 5 May (MU), and near Gibbon on 5, 11, and 27 May (LR, RH). Mark Brogie reports that most *Pipilo* towhees in Knox Co are Spotted; but a phenotypic Eastern was identified near Creighton on 24 May, and hybrids were seen at Niobrara and Verdigre the same day. Randolph and Harding found 15 *Pipilo* towhees in southcentral Nebraska, of which 3 were Eastern, 4 were Spotted, and 8 were undetermined.

Cassin's Sparrow: The only report was of one heard singing at Buffalo Creek Area, Scotts Bluff Co, on 31 May (HW, SW); this species arrives in late May, suggesting that this bird may be a migrant.

American Tree Sparrow: The last was one seen at ADF on 31 April (LF, CF), rather late. A report of 100 counted in Hall Co on the late date of 11 May is suggestive of misidentified Chipping Sparrows (the reverse is an identification challenge in late fall).

Chipping Sparrow: The best count was 433 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). This species is apparently established in Alma, at the west edge of its southern Nebraska range; it was common throughout the period in the Alma Cem (GH, WH) and in cedars behind the ice-cream store on 17 April (WRS; I was hungry).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Good numbers were reported between 23 April 27 May (m.ob.), the latter a rather late date, especially for the eastern RWB location (JGJ). The best count reached an amazing 512 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CH), of which 49 were seen by LR and RH; it must have been a great day for *Spizella* sparrows! There are prior counts for central Nebraska in the "hundreds." Elsewhere, the best count was 7, made at BOL on 12 May (LE).

Brewer's Sparrow: The only reports were of one singing in sagebrush in central Sioux Co 26 Apr (HKH), and another a bit east of the normal range at CLNWR 15 May (SJD,JF, details).

Field Sparrow: Rounding out the Hall Co 11 May *Spizella* bonanza were 133 Field Sparrows, for a grand total of 1,178 of the congeners! The one spotted at ADF on 29 March (LF, CF), followed by two identified at Sacramento-Wilcox Basin, Phelps Co, on 31 March (BP,L P), and one seen at Wehrspann L, Omaha, on 1 April (CHy) suggest that migrants indeed arrive at the start of April, despite the conservative stance taken in "Birds of Nebraska." Rare in the Panhandle, the one identified at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 16 May (SJD, JF) represents only about the 17th spring record. A Field Sparrow observed at WP singing an unusual song and lacking rufous on its face was suggestive of a western *arenacea* (TP); specimens at UNSM indicate that eastern Nebraska Field Sparrows are mostly intermediates of *arenacea* and eastern *pusilla* (JGJ, "Birds of Nebraska"), and so the Lincoln bird may have showed characters of both forms.

Vesper Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Sparrow: Routine reports.

Lark Bunting: The first were a few seen in Sioux Co on 3 May (HKH); good numbers were reported on 11 May at Wright's Gap, Scotts Bluff Co (KL) and at CLNWR on 19 May (KN).

Savannah Sparrow: Peak migration was indicated by a record tally of 250 in Fillmore Co on 28 April (LR, RH); other good counts included the 56 totaled in York Co on 25 April (B); 50+ registered at Hannon Basin, Hall Co, on 23 April (LR, RH); and "lots" observed in Dixon Co on 5 May (JJ).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The best count was the 157 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM); this species is doing well in most parts of Nebraska.

Henslow's Sparrow: A few singing birds are reported in southeastern Nebraska each year in native grasslands with some dead growth from prior years; this spring singles were spotted at Meadowlark L, Seward Co, on 29 May (JG) and at Burchard L, Pawnee Co, on 30 May (BP, LP).

Le Conte's Sparrow: None was reported; this bird is usually a fairly common migrant.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: The only report was of one found on an NOU Field Trip to Wood Duck Area, Stanton Co, on 18 May (LR, RH).

Fox Sparrow: About 16 were reported between 30 March and 13 April; westernmost was one located in Adams Co on 30 March (LR, RH).

Song Sparrow: The best count was the 127 registered in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). Sightings in Phelps Co were noted as the westernmost for the observers (LR, RH); the species is absent in summer in southwestern Nebraska.

Lincoln's Sparrow: One spotted at Wilderness Park, Lincoln on 16 March "probably wintered" (LE); there are, however, no February dates, suggesting that wintering is very rare if it occurs. This bird may have wintered a short way south and started migration early. The bird spotted at SCP on 28 March (KP) may have had a similar provenance, but the first migrants do appear around 1 April; even so, this date would be rather early for a migrant. The best count was 11, made at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, on 1 May (HKH); this species is uncommon in the Panhandle, but a single was identified at WLC on 25 May (AK).

Swamp Sparrow: Few were reported, all in the east between 30 April and 20 May (JWH, LE, DM, LR, RH).

White-throated Sparrow: This species was widely reported in good numbers. Even in the Panhandle, where it is rare, a single was identified at WLC on 28 April (JF). The last birds were 4 seen in northern Lancaster Co on 14 May (LE) and one located at Ponca SP the same day (BFH). The best counts reached 24 in Lancaster Co on 5 May (LE) and 23 at Swanson Park, Omaha, on 2 May (CNK).

White-crowned Sparrow: This species also was widely reported in good numbers. A few winter, probably including the 6 observed at a feeder in Scotts Bluff Co on 11 March (KL), but most leave and return starting around late March. The best counts included the 94 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and the 50+ found at a feeder in Scotts Bluff Co on 6 May (KL). Most birds identified to subspecies were the more numerous and widespread pale-lored and dark-billed *gambelii*, but a single spotted at ICSP on 5 May was black-lored and orange-billed (WRS); most black-lored birds occur in the east. The last seen was one found at Oliver Res on 24 May (JG).

Golden-crowned Sparrow: An immature was reportedly seen with White-crowned Sparrows at Sacramento-Wilcox Basin on 17 March (fide PL, fide JF, no details); it (or the White-crowns) could not be found the next day (PL). This sighting is the 8th report, of which only 3 are documented, those in fall. All are probably correct, however, as a few birds are likely to straggle into the state with White-crowned Sparrows.

Harris's Sparrow: The best count was 86, made in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). The last sighting, about on schedule, was at BOL on 18 May (LE). As expected, none was reported west of central Nebraska.

Dark-eyed Junco: The last reported was a rather late single found in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM). A female "Pink-sided" Junco spotted at Bushnell Cem on 20 April (WRS) was rather late for that form. An excellent count was the 150+ tallied in Kearney Co on 30 March (LR, RH).

McCown's Longspur: None was reported; arrival occurs in late March.

Lapland Longspur: The best count totaled 3,500 in Dixon Co on 17 March (JJ); the record is 10,000!

Chestnut-collared Longspur: None was reported; arrival occurs in late March.

Snow Bunting: None was reported; departure takes place in early March, and apparently none lingered long enough to make the Spring Report.

Northern Cardinal: There are "probably small numbers scattered all along" the North Platte River in Scotts Bluff Co (AK); observations in Morrill and Garden Co would be of interest, as a few are probably established in suitable cover in these cos also. The Hall Co Spring Count tallied 132 cardinals (fide CM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: A rare spring migrant in the Panhandle, an adult male was spotted at the Wildcat Hills NC feeders on 14 May (HW, SW). Other westerly sightings occurred in Harlan Co on 3 May (GH, WH), at NNF, Halsey--2 banded on 14 May (RG)--and one at Calamus Res on 22 May (NGP fide CH).

Black-headed Grosbeak: The bird seen in an Alma yard on 8 May was the observers' first there (GH, WH); another was seen in Harlan Co on 3 May (GH, WH). This species occurs regularly east to about Gibbon in the Platte Valley; 1-2 were identified in the observers' yard between 16 and 25 May, including a pair seen on 24 May (LR, RH). It is fairly common in the western Loup River drainage; 4 were banded at NNF, Halsey, on 14 May (RG).

Blue Grosbeak: Routine reports.

Lazuli Bunting: This species wanders east during spring migration on occasion, there being 12 records in the east prior to this spring. No fewer than 4 reports were received from the east this spring: a male was identified at a Douglas Co feeder from 18 to 19 May (Dst); one was seen east of Lincoln on 15 May (KP); a male was discovered in Nance Co on 12 May (MB); and a male was observed in Knox Co between 18 and 25 May (NOU Field Trip, MB,DH). The (now) 16 eastern records occur in the period from 29 April to 21 May. A good count was the 6 seen along Stage Hill Road, Scotts Bluff Co, on 17 May (SJD, JF).

Indigo Bunting: The first to arrive was spotted in Scotts Bluff Co on 28 April (AK), rather early, and uncommon in the Panhandle. The best count totaled 11 at WP on 18 May (WRS).

Painted Bunting: Two birds were reported, the 11th and 12th for spring. One had been observed at a Bellevue feeder for about a week when it was reported on 28 April, but it was not seen thereafter (B); and a

male was spotted at a feeder at Ponca SP on 6 May (fide JJ, details). The prior 10 reports occur in the period between 26 April and 4 June.

Dickcissel: The one spotted at Two Rivers SP, Douglas Co, on 30 April (DP, JP) was a little early; and the one found in Dixon Co on 4 May was the observer's earliest date (JJ). Numbers were low for a while, but they were "everywhere" at Schilling Refuge, Cass Co, by 26 May (CNK). None was reported west of Harlan and Hall Cos.

Bobolink: Three singles were rather early, arriving on 3 May at Cracker Barrel Marsh, Lincoln (KP); at SCP on 4 May (KP), and as far north as Dixon Co on 4 May (BFH). The best counts included a tally of 87 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM) and of 28 in southwestern Dixon Co, all but 2 males, on 27 May (JJ).

Red-winged Blackbird: Excellent spring counts included the 10-15,000 reported in Dixon Co on 23 March (JJ) and the 10,000, mostly males, located in Phelps Co on 10 March (LR, RH). Resident males arrive about 2 weeks before resident females, as shown in Scotts Bluff Co by the 50 males that appeared in the observer's yard near Morrill on 3 April and the hundreds of females observed near Kiowa Springs, Scotts Bluff Co, on 15 April (KL).

Eastern Meadowlark: The first singing birds were heard, as might be expected, in the southeast at ADF on 13 March (LE), but the one found at Niobrara Marsh, Knox Co, on 16 March marked the first record for the area (MB). A bird spotted at Willa Cather Prairie, Webster Co, on 25 May was westerly for southern Nebraska (LR, RH). There are few reports west of Thayer Co.

Western Meadowlark: Clearly the dominant meadowlark in Hall Co by number, 329 were counted on 11 May, versus only 17 Easterns (fide CM). The bird identified in Scotts Bluff Co had been heard singing since 15 February (HW, SW).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The first reported were the 2 spotted in a huge Red-winged Blackbird flock in Kearney Co on 16 March (LR, RH), about on schedule. The best count was 600 tallied at FL on 4 May (LR, RH).

Rusty Blackbird: Few were reported, only about 7 birds in the period between 10 March and 2 April (m.ob.). A report of 32 seen in Hall Co on 11 May seems unlikely to be correct; no details were provided for what is a late date and a westerly location for this species.

Brewer's Blackbird: Considered a rare migrant in the east, there were two reports: 37 were counted at Summit L on 21 April (JGJ); and 17 were found at Arbor L, Lancaster Co, on 28 April (LE). Five counted in the eastern RWB on 14 April was considered a low tally (JGJ), but "6 pairs" were found at Weis Lagoon, Fillmore Co, on 28 April (LR, RH, GW). The best count reached 49 in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM, no details).

Common Grackle: A rather spectacular grackle seen in Dixon Co on 30 March was white with black wings and uppertail and a dark eye (JJ). The best count was a good 1226, compiled in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Great-tailed Grackle: The best count totaled 104 near Eckhardt Basin, Clay Co, on 30 March (JGJ). This species appears to be established in the Kiowa Springs, Scotts Bluff Co, area of Scotts Bluff Co (KL), with best count there reaching 20 on 28 April (JF, JB). The only other report west of the RWB was of a female observed at Alma between 19 and 25 April (GH, WH).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Rather early was a female located near Gibbon on 2 March (LR, RH). A good (?) count was 686, made in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Orchard Oriole: The first were the 2 spotted at Lamar, Chase Co, on 2 May (FMR) and one located in Harlan Co the next day (GH, WH). The best count was 35 tallied in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM).

Baltimore Oriole: Westernmost was one spotted at Mud Springs Area, Morrill Co, on 11 May (KL); migrants are rare but regular in the Panhandle. The best count was 154, made in Hall Co on 11 May (fide CM), 25 of which were tallied by LR and RH.

Bullock's Oriole: All reports, of about 8 birds from 8 May (KL) on, came from the Panhandle. There was a report of 2 without details from Hall Co on 11 May; this identification seems unlikely, as this species rarely wanders east of its range. Perhaps they were hybrids.

Purple Finch: Few were reported into the spring period: a female was found at Alma on 1 March (GH, WH); a female persisted at the school feeders at Wakefield until 11 April (JJ); and 4 were seen at the SCP feeders on 22 March (KP).

Cassin's Finch: The only report, and first for a couple of years, was of a male discovered south of Chadron on 22 March and 2 males observed there on 26 March (SA).

House Finch: An excellent yard count was the 48 in Dixon Co (JJ).

Red Crossbill: Flocks were detected within the summer range: a mixed-age flock of 12 noted in Monroe Canyon, Sioux Co, on 6 April, including a very young juvenile probably hatched late last fall (WM); 30-40 found at Chadron SP, Dawes Co, on 25 April (PD, DD); and 20 seen in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff Co, on 16 May (SJD, JF). Away from the summer range, a few straggled around the state, with the last to leave a bird spotted in Madison Co 18 May (NOU Field Trip, no details), and a male seen at the Wakefield school feeders between 11 and 16 April (JJ). Two were identified at Alma on 6 April (GH, WH) and at least one was seen at NNF, Halsey, between 2 and 3 May (RG, HW).

White-winged Crossbill: Along with the Cape May Warbler incursion, the continuation of the major winter influx of White-winged Crossbills was a big event this spring. Noteworthy for this incursion, and not previously known in Nebraska, was the extended stay of birds at 3 locations through May; previously there were only 5 May records in all

for Nebraska, interestingly none from incursion years. No doubt some of the lingering birds this spring will remain into June. Most of the feeder birds mentioned in the Winter Report continued, with the addition of a feeder in Bassett attended by 12 birds (CH). Following a rough tally of 75 birds reported in the Winter Report, about 30 were reported this spring. Peak count at the Ratzlaff feeder in Omaha reached 7 (adult and immature males and 5 females) on 24 March, with birds still present at the end of the period (NR). The Bassett feeder still had birds at the end of the period, with 5 seen (1 male, 4 females) on 25 May (CH). At the Old Lutheran Cem, Norfolk, at least 3 birds were still present on 26 May (MB). Other reports included 2 females spotted at a Nebraska City feeder between 1 and 12 May (LF, F); 2 identified at a feeder in Platte Co on 30 March (JWH); and 1-2 (male, female) discovered at the school feeders in Wakefield through 25 March (JJ).

Common Redpoll: Only a few were reported, including single continuing feeder birds located in southwestern Dixon Co, which remained until 31 March (JJ), and at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co, which stayed until 30 March (HKH). The only other reports included 3 spotted at an Omaha feeder on 1 March (B), one at a feeder on the Johnson-Nemaha Cos line 19 Mar (B), and 2 spotted at the Wakefield school feeders on 26 March (JJ). Late departure dates occur in early April.

Pine Siskin: Many reports were received, involving a lot of birds statewide; a rough count shows 530 birds. The best count was the 177, banded to boot, tallied at NNF, Halsey, between 2 and 10 May (RG). Other good counts included the 100+ found in a yard in Scotts Bluff Co (KL) and the 65 counted at Geneva Cem on 28 April (LR, RH, GW). An adult was seen feeding a begging juvenile at Bassett from 21 to 25 May (CH); such sporadic nestings around the state and away from regular breeding areas are not unusual after a year with good wintering numbers. Ruth Green banded two types of siskin at NNF, Halsey: "a smaller type with wing chords of 66-69 for females and 70-73 for males and whose wing coverts were a bright intense yellow. The other type was slightly larger not only in body size, but the wing chords also averaged 77 and the wing bar was a wide, very pale yellow (not old feathers, new feathers!)" According to Pyle ("Identification Guide to North American Birds"), extent of yellow in the wings can be used to sex up to 35% of birds; males are brighter. Pyle indicates that there are 2 subspecies to be expected in Nebraska, but current knowledge is not sufficient to separate them by size or plumage characters: *C. p. vagans*, the expected breeding subspecies, and *C. p. pinus*, a Canadian breeder which would be expected in Nebraska in winter. As yet there is no confirmation on the occurrence of either of these subspecies in Nebraska.

Lesser Goldfinch: One appeared in a Scotts Bluff yard on 7 May (PD, DD, no details). This sighting marks the 12th report for Nebraska.

American Goldfinch: Routine reports.

Evening Grosbeak: None was reported; this species is usually common in winter in the northwest.

House Sparrow: Routine reports.

* * * * *

2002 (12th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

compiled by Joel G. Jorgensen, NOURC Chairperson
1218 Jackson St., Blair, NE 68008

The functions and methods of the NOU Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. THE OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been appended eleven times (Mollhoff 1989, Grenon 1990, Grenon 1991, Gubanyi 1996a, Gubanyi 1996b, Gubanyi 1996c, Brogie 1997, Brogie 1998, Brogie 1999). An update of the OFFICIAL LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA was first published in 1997 (NOU Records Committee 1997).

2000 Additions to the State List

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) Accidental, I-P

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Accidental, I-P

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*), Accidental, I-P

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*), Accidental, III

With these additions, the state list now includes 445 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records: For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor is required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee, 1986). Records in the following classes listed as accepted:

I-S—a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists.

I-P—a diagnostic, labeled photograph or slide exists.

I-R—a diagnostic, labeled recording exists.

II—three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist.

III—on or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist.

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and the initial of the observer(s).

2000 Accepted Records

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia Stellata*)

1. An individual was observed at Winter' Creek Lake, Scotts Bluff County on 30 September 2000 (Class III; KL).
2. An individual was observed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 12 November 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

1. An individual was observed at Burchard Lake State Special Use Area on 20 July 2000 (Class III; WRS). The bird was also subsequently photographed on 22 July 2000 (Class I-P; MO).

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*)

1. A white morph bird, probably a subadult, was observed at the west end of Lake McConaughy, Keith County, between 27 September and 14 October (Class I-P; SJD).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1. An adult was observed at McMurtrey Refuge, Clay County, on 7 May 2000 (Class III; JGJ). This is the second Nebraska Record.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

1. An adult was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 17 May 2000 (Class III; SJD, AB). This is the second record for this species in Nebraska.

Tufted Duck (*Athya fuligula*)

1. A male was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 26 November 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is possibly the same bird present during the winter of 1999-2000.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

1. Two juveniles were observed at Oliver Reservoir State Recreation Area, Kimball County, on 26 August 2000 (Class III: SJD).

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

1. An individual was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 15 January 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 22 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

1. Two juveniles were observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 8 and on 10 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

1. A juvenile was observed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 11 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

1. A first-year bird was observed at Massie Waterfowl Production Area on 7 May 2000 (Class III; JGJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus graellsii*)

1. A first-year bird was observed at Lake McConaughy, Keith County, on 30 April 2000 (Class III, SJD).

Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*)

1. A second-year bird was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 13 December 2000 (Class III; SJD)

Black-legged Kittawake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. An adult was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 29 January 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

1. A molting adult was photographed at Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County on 20 September 2000 (Class I-P; SJD). This is the first accepted record of this species in Nebraska.

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)

1. An adult was photographed visiting a Gering feeder, Scotts Bluff County, between 15 and 16 May 2000 (Class I-P; JC). A written report was also received from 17 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus nuchalis*)

1. An adult male was observed at Lake Ogallala, Keith County, on 26 October and again on 2 November 2000 (Class I-P; SJD).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)

1. An individual was mist-netted and measured in the hand at Oliver Reservoir on 31 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. An individual was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 24 May 2000 (Class III; CW).
2. An individual was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County on 2 September 2000 (Class III; JG).

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax oberholseri*)

1. An individual was mist-netted, measured, and photographed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 31 August 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is the first accepted state record for this species.
2. An individual was mist-nested, measured, and photographed at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 7 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
3. An individual was observed at Mud Springs State Historical Site, Morrill County, on 11 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
4. An individual was mist-nested and measured at Oliver Reservoir SRA, Kimball County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).
5. An individual was observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

1. An individual was observed at Cedar Point Biological Station, Keith County, on 25 October 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*)

1. An individual was observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County, on 20 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)

1. A male was observed in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County, on 6 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*)

1. A immature was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 26 August 2000 (Class III; SJD).
2. An adult male was observed at Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County, on 3 September 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)

1. An individual was observed along Steamboat Trace Trail, Otoe County, on 25 May 2000 (Class III; LF). This is the second state record for this species.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*)

1. A male was observed in Carter Canyon, Scotts Bluff County, on 6 May 2000 (Class III; SJD).

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*)

1. A bird was observed at Ft. Kearny State Park on 19 March 2000. The committee also accepted the supspecific identification as the eastern race, *D.p. hypochrysea* (Class III; RD).

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

1. A very late bird was observed in Lincoln, Lancaster County, on 11 November 2000 (Class III; MU).

Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*)

1. A singing male was observed at Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, Washington County, on 12 June 2000 (Class III; JT)

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*)

1. An individual was observed at Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge on 22 May 2000 (Class III; JT).

Black Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte atrata*)

1. A male was observed along Henry Road, in southwestern Sioux County, on 12 November 2000 (Class III; SJD). This is the first accepted state record for the species.

2. As many as 4 individuals were observed at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux County, on 13 and on 31 December and on 10 February 2001 (Class III; SJD).

Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

1. Two birds were photographed in Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, on 13 June 2000 (Class I-P; JC).

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A male was observed at Cottonwood Canyon, Lincoln County, on 29 December 2000 (Class III; WRS).

In addition, records were filed for Cinnamon Teal-Blue-winged Teal hybrid, Red Knot, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

1999 Unaccepted Records:

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Records Committee 1986):

IV-Probably correct, but not beyond a reasonable doubt.

V-a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed.

VI-a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification.

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's failure to accept the record.

Garganey (*anas querquedula*)

1. A male was on the North Platte River, below the Keystone Diversion Dam, Keith County, on 20 December 2000 (Class IV). The committee believed the description was suggestive of the species; but the sighting was very brief, and the bird was not relocated.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus shistisagus*)

1. An adult was observed and photographed at Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan County, on 22 January 2000 (Class IV). While the description was suggestive of the species and seemed to eliminate other gull species, key field marks such the pattern of the primary mirrors were not viewed due to the brevity of the observation. Given the complexities of large gull identification and the possibility of a hybrid, the committee narrowly voted against the record.

Dusky Flycatcher (*Empidonax olberhoseri*)

1. An individual was observed at Wellfleet Lake SRA, Lincoln County, on 21 July 2000 (Class IV). While the description was suggestive and the observer made a strong case for the occurrence of this species in western Nebraska in fall, at the time of this observation, Nebraska lacked a precedent of accepted records (the first was recorded later during this fall, see above). Given the complexities of *Empidonax* flycatcher identification and the lack of a precedent, the committee narrowly voted against the record.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

1. An individual was observed Riverside Park, Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff County, on 4 September 2000 (Class IV). The description did not eliminate other similar *myiarchus* flycatchers.

Acknowledgements:

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"Unnamed"

A yellow and black bird came to the apricot tree
this morning. I'd not seen it
before, in any of the yards here. I expect
to see such birds in the eastern woods,
not in these relatively arid tracts.

I couldn't identify it. *Grosbeak?* I had
no Guide, only gloomy thoughts
of no specific origin.

The bird stayed for no more than seconds.
It had a chunk of black on its throat,
like a thumbprint. Its wings never
were quiet.

Then it flew off, shrieking,
and the branch it was perched on joined
the swaying of the other limbs
in a breeze. All
but silent like my thoughts. Early in the day.
The jays' romping I could hear.

--by David Wyatt

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